

AMENDENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An activated carbon suitable for use in electric double layer capacitors,

said activated carbon being produced by carbonization of a carbonaceous material consisting essentially of coconut shell, wherein said activated carbon is produced by a process comprising:

pulverizing a coconut shell;

carbonizing said coconut shell in an inert atmosphere to produce a coconut shell char; and

heat-treating said coconut shell char at a temperature ranging from 900°C to 1,100°C in a steam gas atmosphere containing an inert gas selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, argon, and a combustion exhaust gas,
wherein the content of steam in said steam gas atmosphere ranges from 30% by volume to 100% by volume,

wherein said activated carbon has a BET specific surface area of 2000 m²/g to 2500 m²/g, and an average pore diameter of 1.95 nm (19.5 Å) to 2.20 nm (22 Å),

wherein the pore volume of pores having a pore diameter, as calculated according to a Cranston-Inkley method, of 5.0 nm (50 Å) to 30.0 nm (300 Å) is 0.05 cm³/g to 0.15 cm³/g,

wherein the amount of oxygen contained per g of said activated carbon is 1.8 mg to 8.1 mg, and

wherein said activated carbon exhibits a spontaneous potential versus a lithium electrode of 2.85 V to 3.03 V in a non-aqueous electrolytic solution.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled).

4. (Original) The activated carbon for electric double layer capacitors as claimed in claim 1, wherein the BET specific surface area is 2000 m²/g to 2400 m²/g.

5. (Original) The activated carbon for electric double layer capacitors as claimed in claim 1, wherein the BET specific surface area is 2050 m²/g to 2250 m²/g.

6. (Previously Presented) The activated carbon for electric double layer capacitors as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pore volume of pores having a pore diameter, calculated according to a Cranston-Inkley method, of 5.0 nm (50 Å) to 30.0 nm (300 Å) is 0.07 cm³/g to 0.13 cm³/g.

7. (Previously Presented) The activated carbon for electric double layer capacitors as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pore volume of pores having a pore diameter, calculated according to a Cranston-Inkley method, of 5.0 nm (50 Å) to 30.0 nm (300 Å) is 0.08 cm³/g to 0.12 cm³/g.

8. (Original) The activated carbon for electric double layer capacitors as claimed in claim 1, wherein the average pore diameter is 2.00 nm to 2.15 nm.

9. (Original) The activated carbon for electric double layer capacitors as claimed in claim 1, wherein the average pore diameter is 2.02 nm to 2.15 nm.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The activated carbon for electric double layer capacitors as claimed in claim 1, wherein an oxygen content per g. of the activated carbon is 1 mg to 20 mg.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) The activated carbon for electric double layer capacitors as claimed in claim 11, wherein said pore volume thereof is from 0.08 cm³/g to 0.12 cm³/g.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The activated carbon for electric double layer capacitors as claimed in claim 1, having a specific surface area of from 2024-2351 m²/g.

17. (Previously Presented) The activated carbon for electric double layer capacitors as claimed in claim 1, having a total pore volume of 1.00-1.20 cm³/g.

18. (Previously Presented) The activated carbon for electric double layer capacitors as claimed in claim 1, having an average pore diameter of 2.00-2.03 nm.

19. (Previously Presented) The activated carbon for electric double layer capacitors as claimed in claim 1, having a pore volume of pores having a 5.0-30.0 nm diameter of from 0.075-0.130 cm³/g.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously presented) The activated carbon for electric double layer capacitors as claimed in claim 1, having a spontaneous potential of 2.99-3.02.

22. (Previously presented) An electric double layer capacitor, comprising the activated carbon of claim 1.

23. (Withdrawn) A method of making an activated carbon, which comprises the steps of:

- a) carbonizing coconut shell, thereby producing a carbonization product; and
- b) activating the carbonization product.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, wherein said activating is effected by gas activation.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, wherein said activating is effected by chemical activation.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein said gas activation is effected by steam activation.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, which further comprises prior to said step a), pulverizing said coconut shell.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, wherein said carbonizing in step a) is effected under an inert atmosphere.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, wherein said activating in step b) is effected by heat-treating the carbonization product of step a) at a temperature of 800°C to 1,300°C in an inert gas comprising nitrogen, argon or a combustion exhaust gas containing steam.

30. (Canceled)

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 2, 3, 12, 13, and 20 were previously canceled.

Claims 10, 15, and 30 are canceled herein.

Claim 1 has been amended.

The amendment of Claim 1 is supported by previously pending Claims 1, 10, 15, and

30. Additional support for the amendment of Claim 1 is provided by the specification at page
13, lines 2-11 and the Examples (for example, see pages 21 and 22).

No new matter has been added by the present amendment.